8. **Customs.**—The gross revenue of the year fell from Rs. 12,81,000 to Rs. 12,56,000. In 1086, the revenue was so high as Rs. 13,23,000. About 93% of the revenue is derived from the export duty ; and the items which contribute most to the duty are the produce of the cocoanut tree. It has been calculated that about 75% of the Customs Revenue is derived from the export duty on the produce of the cocoanut tree alone. The Excise Commissioner has pointed out that the diminished output of the produce of the cocoanut tree has been one of the causes of the decrease in the Customs Revenue. The export trade in this produce fell from Rs. 169 lacs in 1087 to Rs. 159 lacs in 1088. This is a serious matter, and I cannot help thinking that it is, to no small extent, due to the inveterate habit of imagining that a cocoanut garden once planted out and come to maturity needs no further attention either by way of tillage or by way of manuring. Happily, the feeling among the ryots is slowly changing in this respect, mostly on account of the operations of the Agricultural Department. In regard to the export tariff generally, the policy of the Government has been gradually to reduce the list; for example, in 1085 the number of articles on the export tariff list was 24, and in 1088 it came down to 15. Before leaving this branch of the revenue, I should mention that the Salt, Abkari, Customs and Marine revenues, are managed by a single agency known as the Excise Department, the work of which has shown steady improvement since its present head, Mr. Raman Pillai, was appointed Commissioner—over five years ago. The Department has now reached considerable efficiency.

9. **Stamps.**—The revenue from Stamps reached the high figure of Rs. 17,99,000 during the year. This is a revenue which has been, for a long time, going up. It was Rs. 12,25,000 in 1082. The increase has been both under General and Court Fee Stamps. In a country where land is so valuable, land tenures so complicated, where there are such variations in the personal law of the different sections of the community, and last, but not least, where there is such a large amount of mutual distrust and want of confidence, and consequent increase of litigation, the Stamp Revenue is bound to go up.

PROTECTION.

10. **The Legislative Council.**—The number of Members of the Legislative Council was raised during the year from 10 to 15. The maximum allowed by law has now been reached, and no further increase is therefore possible. Out of the 15 Members of the Council, excluding the President, 8 are officials and 7 are non-officials, and of the 7 non-officials, four are appointed on the recommendation of the Assembly Members of the four main divisions of the State ; the fifth, representing the planting division of Devicolam, is generally appointed on the recommendation of the planters in that area ; and the other two are appointed by the Government to represent communities or interests which otherwise fail to secure representation. Since the last Assembly, Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi, who had been returned by the members of the Padmanabhapuram Division, vacated his seat, and Mr. R. Eswara Pillai, the representative of the Kottayam Division, has also just vacated his seat. His Highness the Maha Raja has commanded that the Members of the Kottayam and Padmanabhapuram Divisions shall now meet, under the presidency of their respective Dewan Peishkars, and elect representatives for their divisions, whose names should be submitted to His Highness for consideration. The most important piece of legislation passed during 1088 was Regulation I of that year, to define and amend the law of marriage, succession and family management among the Nairs. In regard to pending pieces of legislation, I would instance the Village Panchayat Courts Bill and the Co-operative Societies Bill, as fraught with possibilities of great good, if properly worked. Both these Bills now await final reading in the Council. In regard to the Bill to amend and define the rules of law applicable to intestate succession among Indian Christians, the Government cannot ignore the large diversity of opinion that has already manifested itself on the subject, nor can the Government undertake to pass a legislation like that except on the strength of a practical unanimity of feeling in the community affected.

11. **Police.**—The Police Department was thoroughly reorganised, at an additional cost of nearly a lac of rupees per annum. The most important feature of the

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